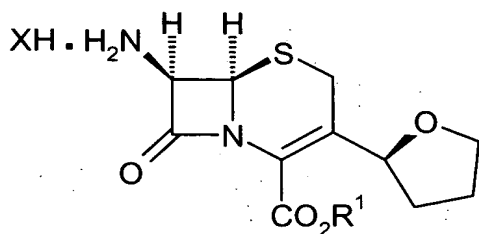


**PROCESS AND ESTER DERIVATIVES USEFUL FOR PREPARATION OF**  
**CEPHALOSPORINS**

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates a process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



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wherein R<sup>1</sup> is *para*-nitrobenzyl or allyl; and X is halo, which is useful to prepare 3-cyclic-ether-substituted cephalosporins, from trimethylphosphinic compounds. This invention also relates to compounds useful in such process.